



# Information Assessment

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***“Most organizations are overloaded with data, but have trouble getting good information.”***

- MT Prime Interviewee.

- It is important for the State to ensure that its management information environment supports the State’s business directions and that information is readily available for both management and legislative purposes.
- Our assessment of the information environment is based on two steps:
  - The level of core system support for management information
  - The ability of the current information management environment to support the future business directions



# System Support For Key Data

Core administrative systems are intended to provide useful management information. The table below summarizes the key databases in use in the core administrative systems.

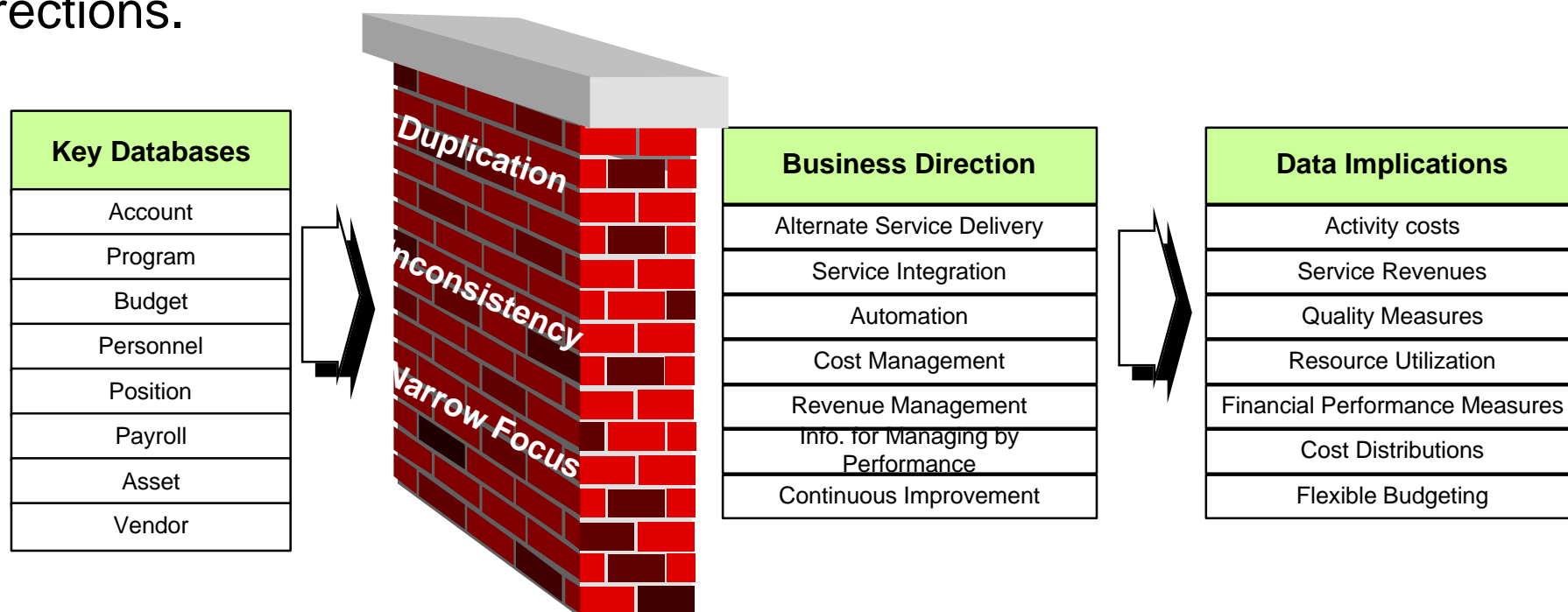
Core Administrative Systems							Degree of Redundancy
Key Data	SBAS	Warrant Writer	PAMS	PPP	MIBS (as proposed)	Agency Systems	
Account	✓			✓	✓	✓	H
Program	✓			✓	✓	✓	H
Budget	✓			✓	✓	✓	H
Personnel				✓		✓	L
Position				✓	✓	✓	M
Payroll	✓			✓	✓	✓	H
Asset	✓		✓			✓	M
Vendor		✓				✓	L

Data is duplicative, redundant, frequently inconsistent, and focused on system needs. Agencies have developed supplementary systems to provide better access to key data.



# Data Support for Business Directions

Duplication, inconsistencies and narrow focus of the current databases create a barrier to the successful implementation of new business directions.



The business directions will likely require significantly more and different information than is present in the existing databases.



# Conclusions

The information management environment is under tremendous pressure to respond to the demands for better and faster information. However:

- Information is presently fractured into pieces of data residing in function specific systems.
- Complete information is difficult to compile from the separate pieces of data.
- Duplicate data results in inconsistent information and integration difficulties.
- Timeliness of data affected by system specific timing requirements.
- Data is difficult to access and manipulate for management purposes.
- Several SJR 23 data task force findings must be reiterated, namely
  - ⇒ the State of Montana does not have information management principles
  - ⇒ the State of Montana does not have a formal, enterprise-wide information resource management plan
  - ⇒ the data management task force was unable to obtain complete data about the costs of maintenance

The state is responding to these pressures:

- Agencies are increasingly interested in integrating data among their operational systems.
- Efforts are being made to integrate core system data.

The pervasiveness of information databases and systems will make renewal efforts time-consuming and costly in a business culture characterized by operational independence.